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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/930,395	08/16/2001	David J. Attwater	36-1008	1020
23117	7590	06/15/2006	EXAMINER	
NIXON & VANDERHYE, PC 901 NORTH GLEBE ROAD, 11TH FLOOR ARLINGTON, VA 22203			ARMSTRONG, ANGELA A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2626	

DATE MAILED: 06/15/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/930,395	ATTWATER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Angela A. Armstrong	2626	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 March 2006.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-11,20-27,34-37 and 50-55 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) 1-11,20-27,34-37 is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 50-55 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on March 16, 2006, has been entered.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 50-55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Gilai et al (US Patent No. 6,018,736), hereinafter referred to as Gilai.

Gilai discloses a word-containing database accessing system for responding to ambiguous queries, including a dictionary of database words, a dictionary searcher and a database searcher.

3. Regarding claim 50, at col. 5, line 63 to col. 6, line 3, Gilai discloses the system accepts an ambiguous input from an ambiguous input generator and accesses a database on the basis of the

ambiguous input received from the generator, in which the ambiguous input generator input is keystroke input or speech input, which reads on “a speech recognition apparatus.”

At col. 6, line 50 to col. 7, line 6, and col. 11, line 50 to col. 12, line 29, Gilai discloses a dictionary comprises an alphabetical or phonetically ordered or otherwise ordered list of some or all words or strings appearing in the database which is to be accessed and a concordance associates the dictionary with the database; and at col. 7, line 46 to col. 8, line 34; and col. 15, line 27 to col. 16, line 48, discloses that after each word is supplied by the user a candidate sorter extracts a predetermined number of the highest scoring similarity vector components and stores these components in a best candidates box, which reads on “a directory database comprising first entries, second entries, and relationships between the first and the second entries.”

At col. 7, line 46 to col. 8, line 34; and col. 15, line 27 to col. 16, line 48, Gilai discloses the initialization process which uses the concordance to find the logical and physical location of all database entries that include the requested dictionary entry value in the appropriate context. For example, if the users supply the last name Smith, all entries with the last name of Smith are located; and discloses the output of the database lookup ad the candidate sorter is a list of a predetermined number of database entries which are most similar to the words supplied by the user thus far, sorted according to their similarity scores which reads on “a processing component operable to recognize first entries corresponding to a vocabulary that meets a predetermined criterion of similarity to a received voice signal, and to identify a first recognition data set comprised of second entries having a relationship to the recognized first entries.”

4. Regarding claims 51, at col. 6, line 50 to col. 8, line 19, Gilai discloses a dictionary comprises an alphabetical or phonetically ordered or otherwise ordered list of some or all words or strings appearing in the database which is to be accessed and a concordance associates the dictionary with the

database and also discloses the system has a conversation manager which may prompt the user to supply additional words or strings that are part of the database entry which is processed using the same database scan and lookup scheme; and at col. 7, line 46 to col. 8, line 34; and col. 15, line 27 to col. 16, line 48, discloses the initialization process which uses the concordance to find the logical and physical location of all database entries that include the requested dictionary entry value in the appropriate context. For example, if the users supply the last name Smith, all entries with the last name of Smith are located; and at col. 7, line 46 to col. 8, line 34; and col. 15, line 27 to col. 16, line 48, discloses that after each word is supplied by the user a candidate sorter extracts a predetermined number of the highest scoring similarity vector components and stores these components in a best candidates box, which reads on “the directory database further comprises third entries and relationships between the second entries and the third entries, wherein the processing component is further operable to recognize second entries from the first recognition data set corresponding to a second vocabulary that meets a predetermined criterion of similarity to a second received voice signal, and to identify a second recognition data set comprised of third entries having a relationship to second entries from the first recognition data set.”

5. Regarding claims 52-53 and 54-55, claims 52-53 and 54-55 are similar in scope and content to claims 50-51, and are rejected under similar rationale.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 1-11, 20-27, and 34-37 are allowed.

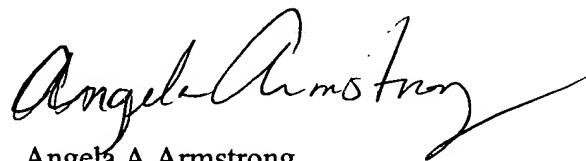
Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Angela A. Armstrong whose telephone number is 571-272-7598. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 11:30-8:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Hudspeth can be reached on 571-272-7843. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Please note the change in art unit designation for the examiner from old art unit "2654" to new art unit "2626."

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Angela A. Armstrong
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2626